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United Nations

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

2008 session

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Note

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference on Disarmament submits to the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly its annual report on its 2008 session, together with the pertinent documents and records.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A. 2008 Session of the Conference

2. The Conference was in session from 23 January to 28 March, 12 May to 27 June and 28 July to 12 September 2008. During this period, the Conference held 35 formal plenary meetings, at which Member States as well as non-Member States invited to participate in the discussions outlined their views and recommendations on the various questions before the Conference.

3. The Conference also held 33 informal plenary meetings on its agenda, programme of work, organization and procedures, as well as on other matters.

4. In accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, the following Member States assumed successively the Presidency of the Conference: Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

5. At the inaugural meeting of the 2008 session on 23 January, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, addressed the Conference and, *inter alia,* urged the Conference to rekindle the ambition and sense of common purpose that produced its past accomplishments. He also called upon Foreign Ministers and other political leaders to come to the Conference and encourage a return to productive work (CD/PV.1083).

6. In addition, upon the joint invitation of the President of the Conference, Ambassador Samir Labidi (Tunisia) and the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, the following dignitaries addressed the Conference on Disarmament: Mr. Abdelwaheb Abdallah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia (CD/PV.1083), Mr. Des Browne, Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom (CD/PV.1087), Mr. Thomas D'Agostino, Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration of the United States of America (CD/PV.1088), Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (CD/PV.1089), Mr. Jorge Taiana, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Worship of Argentina (CD/PV.1095), Mr. Maxime Verhagen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (CD/PV.1096), Mr. Marat Tazhin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan (CD/PV.1096), Mr. Adrian Cioroianu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania (CD/PV.1096), Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (CD/PV.1096), Mr. Ján Kubiš, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic (CD/PV.1096), Mr. Francisco Santos Calderón, Vice-President of Colombia (CD/PV.1096), Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway (CD/PV.1096), Mr. Rafet Akgünay, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey (CD/PV.1097), Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama, Vice-

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (CD/PV.1097), Mr. Volodymyr Khandogiy, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (CD/PV.1097), Mr. Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden (CD/PV.1098), and Mr. Emilio Izquiero Miño, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador (CD/PV.1107). The Conference also received a message from Mr. Yang Jiechi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of China (CD/PV.1089). At the 1110th plenary meeting on 25 June 2008, upon the invitation of the President of the Conference, Ambassador John Duncan (United Kingdom) and the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, the Conference was addressed by Mr. Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union (CD/PV.1110).

7. In their addresses, these dignitaries, recognizing the importance of the Conference as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, addressed a wide range of issues in the area of disarmament and international security. While expressing concern about the continuing stalemate in the Conference, they welcomed the concerted efforts by the six Presidents, and expressed their support for further efforts by the Conference to reach consensus on starting multilateral negotiations. The Conference welcomed their addresses as expressions of support for its endeavours as the single multilateral negotiating forum in the field of disarmament.

8. The substantive Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament was composed as follows: Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Tim Caughley, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Director of the Geneva Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs; and Mr. Jerzy Zaleski, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament.

B. Participants in the Work of the Conference

9. The representatives of the following 65 Member States participated in the work of the Conference: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

C. Attendance and Participation of States not Members of the Conference

10. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036) the Conference received and considered requests for participation in its work from 38 States not Members of the Conference. Accordingly, the Conference invited the following non-Member States to participate in its work: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech

Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, the Holy See, Iceland, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, Sudan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

11. The following documents dealing with the issue of attendance and participation of States not Members of the Conference were submitted to the Conference:

(a) CD/1834, entitled "Letter dated 25 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament regarding the requests for participation in the work of the Conference during 2008 from non-member States";

(b) CD/1838, entitled "Letter dated 21 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament regarding the position of Cyprus on the issue raised in document CD/1834 dated 25 January 2008".

D. Agenda and Programme of Work for the 2008 Session

12. At its 1084th plenary meeting on 24 January 2008, following a debate in which the content of the draft agenda presented by the President of the Conference in accordance with Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure was reviewed, the Conference on Disarmament adopted its agenda for the 2008 session. The agenda (CD/1835) reads as follows:

"Taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and deciding to resume its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 2008 session:

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.

3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.

6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.

7. Transparency in armaments.

8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations."

13. Subsequently, the President made the following statement: "In connection with the adoption of the agenda, I, as the President of the Conference, should like to state that it is understood that if there is a consensus in the Conference to deal with any issues, they could be dealt with within this agenda. The Conference will also take into consideration paragraphs 27 and 30 of its Rules of Procedure."

14. Pursuant to paragraph 57 of the 2007 report of the Conference (CD/1831), the last President of the 2007 session (Syrian Arab Republic) and the first President of the 2008 session (Tunisia) conducted informal consultations during the intersessional period with a view to commencing early substantive work during the 2008 session of the Conference. These consultations were conducted in cooperation with the five incoming Presidents of the 2008 session (Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

15. At the 1087th plenary meeting on 5 February 2008, the President, Ambassador Samir Labidi (Tunisia), reported that his consultations indicated that the Conference had not arrived at a consensus either on the establishment of a subsidiary body or on a proposal for a programme of work, and that efforts must be continued to bridge the differences and find a way to foster consensus on the commencement of substantive work. He indicated that the Presidency would appoint, under its own responsibility, coordinators for each of the agenda items, without prejudice to any future decision that the Conference might take on its programme of work. Under the authority of the 2008 Presidents, the coordinators would organize and chair debates on the agenda items in a comprehensive manner and without preconditions, taking into account all the relevant past, present and future views and proposals. The coordinators were required to report, in their personal capacity, on the discussions on the various agenda items to the 2008 Presidents, who, in conjunction with each of the coordinators, would finalize the report, under his/her own responsibility, on progress made on each item. Subsequently, the President announced that the 2008 Presidents of the Conference appointed the following coordinators:

(a) Ambassador Juan Martabit of Chile for agenda items 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and 2 entitled "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters", with a general focus on nuclear disarmament;

(b) Ambassador Sumio Tarui of Japan for agenda items 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and 2 entitled "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters", with a general focus on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

(c) Ambassador Marius Grinius of Canada for agenda item 3 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space";

(d) Ambassador Babacar Carlos Mbaye of Senegal for agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons";

(e) Ambassador Petko Draganov of Bulgaria for agenda item 5 entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons";

(f) Ambassador Dayan Jayatilleka of Sri Lanka for agenda item 6 entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament"; and

(g) Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia for agenda item 7 entitled "Transparency in armaments".

The President furthermore circulated an organizational framework containing the schedule of the future meetings of the Conference during its 2008 session (CD/WP.549). The organisational framework was subsequently updated by successive Presidents.

16. Under the Presidency of Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü (Turkey), intensive consultations were conducted towards reaching agreement on a programme of work. On 13 March 2008, the President circulated, on behalf of the 2008 Presidents, a new proposal in the form of a draft decision to be taken by the Conference (CD/1840) to provide a basis for the organisation of its work.

17. Following the introduction of CD/1840, the 2008 Presidents Ambassadors Samir Labidi (Tunisia), Ahmet Üzümcü (Turkey), Yevhen Bersheda (Ukraine), John Duncan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Christina Rocca (United States of America), Germán Mundaraín Hernandéz (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) conducted intensive consultations with a view to reaching an agreement on it.

18. On 27 March 2008, the President, Ambassador Yevhen Bersheda (Ukraine) submitted, under his own responsibility, a document entitled "Presidential report to the Conference on Disarmament on Part I of the 2008 session" (CD/1841), which, *inter alia*, stated that the 2008 Presidents of the Conference interacted closely with the CD membership and the agenda item coordinators, in parallel with bilateral consultations and regular meetings with regional group coordinators.

19. On 27 June 2008, the President, Ambassador Christina Rocca (United States) submitted, under her own responsibility, a document entitled "Presidential report to the Conference on Disarmament on Part II of the 2008 session" (CD/1845), which, *inter alia*, stated that there was still time available for the implementation of CD/1840, if agreed upon, during Part III of the 2008 CD session and no effort should be spared to adopt a programme of work by consensus.

20. On 26 August 2008, the President, Ambassador Germán Mundaraín Hernandéz (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) submitted, under his own responsibility, a document entitled "Presidential report to the Conference on Disarmament on Part III of the 2008 session" (CD/1848), which, *inter alia*, stated that the Presidential Proposal contained in document CD/1840 continued to generate support among a substantial number of delegations but did not achieve consensus.

21. A wide range of delegations supported the Presidential Proposal contained in document CD/1840. A number of delegations, though they had some concerns about certain elements in the Proposal, said that they would not oppose consensus on it and other delegations stated they had concerns that the Proposal would not satisfy their expectations. Some delegations stated that they had substantive reservations and concerns about the Proposal and that more work was needed to

address them. It was concluded accordingly that further consultations were needed to reach consensus to adopt a programme of work.

22. The following documents dealing with the issue of agenda and programme of work were submitted to the Conference:

(a) CD/1837, entitled "Letter dated 8 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt regarding document CD/WP.549 dated 5 February 2008";

(b) CD/1840, entitled "Draft decision by the Presidents of the 2008 session of the Conference on Disarmament";

(c) CD/1841, entitled "Presidential report to the Conference on Disarmament on Part I of the 2008 session";

(d) CD/1843, entitled "Letter dated 4 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the statement delivered at an informal meeting held on 13 March 2008;

(e) CD/1845, entitled "Presidential report to the Conference on Disarmament on Part II of the 2008 session";

(f) CD/1848, entitled "Presidential report to the Conference on Disarmament on Part III of the 2008 session";

(g) CD/1851, entitled "Letter dated 5 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a paper entitled "Position on CD/1840"

E. Expansion of the Membership of the Conference

23. The question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

24. Since 1982, requests for membership have been received from the following 24 non-Members, in chronological order: Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Denmark, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Ghana, Luxembourg, Uruguay, the Philippines, Azerbaijan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Armenia, Thailand, Georgia, Jordan, Estonia, Latvia and Malta.

F. Review of the Agenda of the Conference

25. The review of the agenda of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

G. Improved and Effective Functioning of the Conference

26. The improved and effective functioning of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

H. Communications from Non-Governmental Organizations

27. In accordance with Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure, a list of communications from non-governmental organizations or their representatives was circulated to the Conference. (CD/NGC/42).

28. To mark the International Women's Day, a statement of the NGO Working Group on Peace of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women related to peace, security and disarmament issues was read by the President of the Conference on Disarmament at the 1099th plenary meeting on 11 March 2008 (CD/PV.1099). Subsequently, several delegations expressed the view that the statement should be delivered by one of its authors.

III. SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE DURING ITS 2008 SESSION

29. The 2008 Presidents of the Conference appointed coordinators for agenda items 1 to 7, and circulated the organizational framework of the Conference containing the schedule of the meetings of the Conference during its 2008 session, without prejudice to any future decisions of the Conference on its programme of work. The coordinators, under the authority of the 2008 Presidents, chaired informal meetings on agenda items 1 to 7 and reported to the Presidents on their results.

30. On 15 August 2008, the President of the Conference, Ambassador Christina Rocca (United States of America), on behalf of the 2008 Presidents, addressed a letter to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the reports of the seven coordinators submitted to the 2008 Presidents on the work done by those coordinators during the 2008 session (CD/1846).

31. The CD has achieved substantive progress by conducting important thematic debates on all agenda items and advanced considerably in its efforts but could not yet reach consensus on a programme of work.

32. The Presidents of the Conference reported on the work of the Conference during the first Part of the 2008 session (CD/1841), during the second Part of the 2008 session (CD/1845) and during the third Part of the 2008 session (CD/1848).

33. The list of documents issued by the Conference, as well as the texts of those documents, are included as Appendix I to this report. An index of the verbatim records, by country and by subject, listing the statements made by delegations during 2008, and the verbatim records of the formal plenary meetings of the Conference, are attached as Appendix II to the report.

34. The Conference had before it a letter dated 23 January 2008 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations (CD/1832) transmitting the resolutions and decisions on disarmament and international security matters adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session in 2007, including those making specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament. The latter are listed below:

62/19	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (operative paragraphs 2, 5, 6)
62/20	Prevention of an arms race in outer space (operative paragraphs 2, 5, 6, 8)
62/34	Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes (operative paragraphs 1, 4, 5)
62/37	Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons (operative paragraph 10)
62/38	Regional disarmament (operative paragraph 1)
62/42	Nuclear disarmament (operative paragraphs 14, 15, 19, 20)
62/44	Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels (operative paragraph 2)
62/51	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (operative paragraphs 1, 2)
62/54	Report of the Disarmament Commission (operative paragraphs 5, 9)
62/55	Report of the Conference on Disarmament (operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

A. Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament

35. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

36. The following document dealing with this agenda item was submitted to the Conference:

CD/1842, entitled "Letter dated 25 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the French Republic to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the statement made by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, at Cherbourg on 21 March 2008".

37. In accordance with the joint initiative of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, the Coordinator, Mr. Alejandro Rogers, representing Ambassador Juan Martabit and

Ambassador Carlos Portales (Chile), held three informal meetings on agenda items 1 and 2, with a general focus on nuclear disarmament, on 5 and 19 February and on 31 July 2008, and reported to the 2008 Presidents on results on 6 March and 13 August 2008 (CD/1846, Annex I).

38. Furthermore, in accordance with the joint initiative of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, the Coordinator, Ambassador Sumio Tarui (Japan), held three informal meetings on agenda items 1 and 2, with a general focus on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on 6 and 20 February and 31 July 2008, and reported to the 2008 Presidents on results on 6 March and 13 August 2008 (CD/1846, Annex II).

B. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters

39. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

C. Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space

40. At the 1089th plenary meeting on 12 February 2008, Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Ambassador Li Baodong on behalf of Mr. Yang Jiechi, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China submitted the draft "Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT)".

41. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item, including on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

42. The following documents dealing with this item were submitted to the Conference:

(a) CD/1836, entitled "Letter dated 12 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of China to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting a message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China to the Conference on Disarmament";

(b) CD/1839, entitled "Letter dated 12 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and the Permanent Representative of China to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the Russian and Chinese texts of the draft "Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects" (PPWT)" introduced by the Russian Federation and China";

(c) CD/1844, entitled "Letter dated 20 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the

Conference transmitting the report of the Conference organized by UNIDIR entitled "Security in Space: the next generation" held from 31 March to 1 April 2008 in Geneva; and

(d) CD/1847, entitled "Letter dated 19 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting comments on the draft "Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT)" as contained in document CD/1839 of 29 February 2008".

43. In accordance with the joint initiative of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, the Coordinator, Ambassador Marius Grinius (Canada), held three informal meetings on the prevention of an arms race in outer space on 7 and 21 February and 5 August 2008, and reported to the 2008 Presidents on results on 6 March and 13 August 2008 (CD/1846, Annex III).

D. Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States Against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons

44. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

45. In accordance with the joint initiative of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, the Coordinator, Ambassador Babacar Carlos Mbaye (Senegal), held three informal meetings on the effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons on 12 and 21 February and 7 August 2008, and reported to the 2008 Presidents on results on 6 March and 13 August 2008 (CD/1846, Annex IV).

E. New Types of Weapons of Mass Destruction and New Systems of Such Weapons; Radiological Weapons

46. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

47. In accordance with the joint initiative of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, the Coordinator, Ambassador Petko Draganov (Bulgaria), held three informal meetings on the new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons, on 13 and 29 February and 7 August 2008, and reported to the 2008 Presidents on results on 6 March and 13 August 2008 (CD/1846, Annex V).

F. Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament

48. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

49. In accordance with the joint initiative of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, the Coordinator, Ambassador Dayan Jayatilleka (Sri Lanka), held three informal meetings on the comprehensive programme of disarmament on 14 and 27 February and 12 August 2008, and reported to the 2008 Presidents on results on 6 March and 13 August 2008 (CD/1846, Annex VI).

G. Transparency in Armaments

50. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

51. In accordance with the joint initiative of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, the Coordinator, Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, held three informal meetings on transparency in armaments on 15 and 28 February and 12 August 2008, and reported to the 2008 Presidents on results on 6 March and 13 August 2008 (CD/1846, Annex VII).

H. Consideration of Other Areas Dealing with the Cessation of the Arms Race and Disarmament and Other Relevant Measures

52. During its 2008 session, the Conference also had before it the following documents:

(a) CD/1833, entitled "Letter dated 19 December 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and the Permanent Representative of the United States of America transmitting the text of the Joint Statement on the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, issued 25 October 2007";

(b) CD/1849, entitled "Letter dated 28 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the texts of the statement by the President of the Russian Federation and the statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation dated 26 August 2008 on recognition of the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia;

(c) CD/1850, entitled "Letter dated 26 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text on the update of the current situation in Georgia";

(d) CD/1852, entitled "Letter dated 9 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of the statement delivered by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on 4 September 2008 in Moscow".

I. Consideration and Adoption of the Annual Report of the Conference and Any Other Report as Appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations

53. Building on the continued high level and focus of its activities throughout 2008 and with a view to early commencement of substantive work during its 2009 session, the Conference requested the current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, make recommendations taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference on Disarmament, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations.

54. The Conference decided that the dates for its 2009 session would be:

First Part:	19 January – 27 March
Second Part:	18 May – 3 July
Third Part:	3 August – 18 September

55. The annual report to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as adopted by the Conference on 9 September 2008, is transmitted by the President on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament.

Germán Mundaraín Hernández
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
President of the Conference

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